

# **BANNER RIDGE SUMMER YURT GUIDE**

The Banner Ridge yurt is IDPR's most popular yurt because it is only a few hundred yards from a passable road and has a spectacular view to the north and east. Many miles of high elevation primitive roads and trails are available for hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding. One backcountry road near the yurt descends 3000 feet in 12 miles to Kirkham Hot Springs. The yurt's high elevation (6,500 feet) guarantees an assortment of wild flowers all summer long and is a wonderful place to experience the power of a summer thunderstorm, view the stars of the Milky Way, watch wildlife, or just to curl up and read a book. The yurt is usually snow free from May 7 through November 15.

## **Reservations:**

Reservations for stays within IDPR Idaho City Backcountry Yurts can be online at [www.parksand recreation.idaho.gov](http://www.parksand recreation.idaho.gov) or toll free 1-866-634-3246. Reservations are accepted 9-months in advance of your intended stay and no later than 48-hours prior to your intended arrival. A non-refundable fee of \$6 is assessed at the time your reservation is made. All fees must be paid in advance of your stay.

Yurts are reserved from 2 p.m. the day of your reservation until 1 p.m. the following afternoon. The maximum length of stay in the same yurt is 5 days.

## **How to Get There:**

The Banner Ridge Park N' Ski parking lot is 23.5 miles north of Idaho City on Highway 21. Across from this parking lot, turn right off the highway onto a gravel road. You will immediately pass a toilet. Drive on this gravel road about 2 miles to the yurt parking spot. The road to the yurt will continually climb until you reach the top of the ridge. Do not turn off on any side roads on the way up. A high clearance vehicle is recommended because of the water bars on the road. You will know you are at the parking spot when you see a 2-foot yellow diamond shape (blazes) attached to a post. Please park to the right of the post off the road. The yurt is in a north-facing bowl just below the saddle.

## **Elevation Gain and Distance:**

From the yurt parking spot it is about a 20-foot climb and a 70-foot descent along a 300-yard long single-track trail.

## **Wood:**

Wood for the stove is located under the deck. Wood for the fire pit is north of the fire pit. There are several downed trees in the area which can be cut with the bow saw or axe provided. Please use downed, dry timber, as it helps clean up the area and aides in fire protection.

## **Water:**

There is water available within 350 yards of the yurt. From the yurt, travel down the drainage about 150 yards and down 50 feet in elevation until you come to a

visible roadbed. Turn right on the level roadbed and travel 200 yards on the road. At this point, look downhill about 30 feet to see a 4x4 post sticking out of the ground. Five feet downhill from the base of this pole is a spring that comes directly out of the ground. We recommend that this water be boiled for 10 minutes or drawn with a water filter system such as the "First Need".

**Maps Needed:**

Idaho City Area Yurt and Trail System, USFS Forest Road, and USGS 7.5 minute topographic "Lowman."

**Global Positioning System Locations (UTM):**

Banner Ridge Yurt 11 T 613329 E 4876810 N

Banner Ridge Parking Lot 11 T 611707 E 4875454 N